

# Council of Europe and European Union Programmatic Cooperation Framework 2015-2020 for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus

Working together  
to promote  
human rights,  
democracy and  
the rule of law



## Programmatic Cooperation Framework for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus

Funded  
by the European Union  
and the Council of Europe



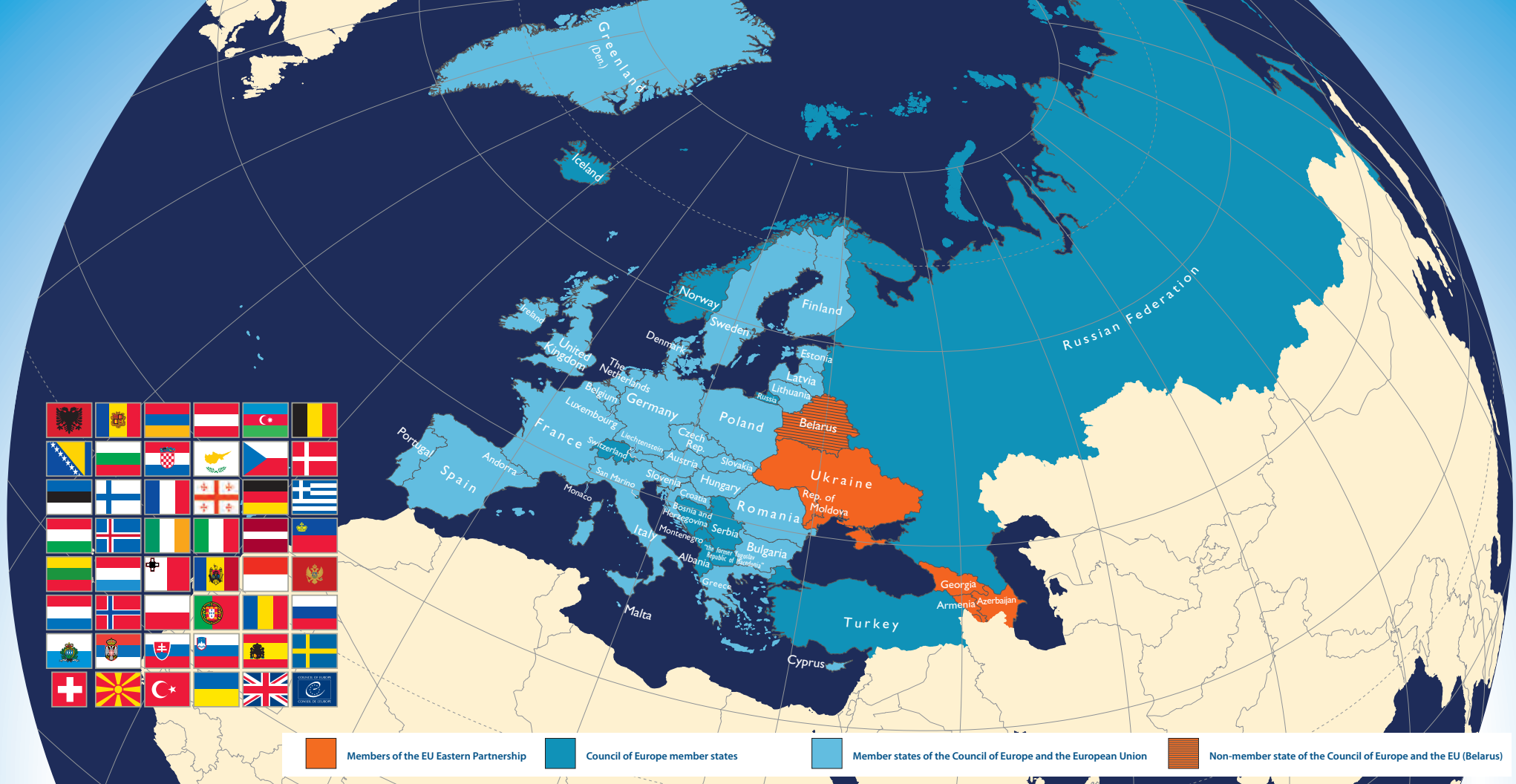
EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Implemented  
by the Council of Europe



The Council of Europe and the European Union (EU) are separate organisations which have different, yet complementary roles.

- The Council of Europe works together with its 47 member states to strengthen human rights and democracy across the continent and beyond.
- The EU brings its 28 member states closer together both economically and politically by harmonising legislation and practices in certain policy areas.
- The EU created the Eastern Partnership to cooperate closer with its eastern European neighbours: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine
- The two organisations work closely together in areas where they have common interests, notably in promoting human rights and democracy across Europe and in neighbouring regions.
- Cooperation between the European Union and the Council of Europe allows each organisation to benefit from the other's specific strengths, thereby supporting each other's work.

### The Council of Europe's 47 member states

■ Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

### The European Union's 28 member states

■ Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.



## WHAT IS THE PCF?

— In April 2014, the European Union and the Council of Europe agreed, in a Statement of Intent, that targeted cooperation activities with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus – the EU’s Eastern Partnership countries – would be implemented under a “Programmatic Cooperation Framework” (PCF).

— These cooperation activities intend to strengthen the capacity of Eastern Partnership countries, which are member states of the Council of Europe, with the exception of Belarus, and to implement domestic reforms to bring them closer to the standards of the Council of Europe and the European Union in the fields of human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

## HOW LONG WILL THE PCF LAST?

— The PCF was signed in December 2014 and will be implemented in two phases: 2015-2017 and 2018-2020. A mid-term evaluation will take place in 2017 and a final evaluation in 2020.

## HOW MUCH WILL THE PCF COST?

— The budget for the first implementation phase (2015-2017) is €33.8 million. The PCF is funded 90% by the European Union and 10% by the Council of Europe and is implemented by the Council of Europe.

## WHAT WILL THE PCF DO?

■ Five priority areas (or themes) of cooperation were identified with the European Union for the PCF. Under these five themes there are 15 sub-themes which lead to 50 country-specific and regional actions.

### Theme I: Protection and promotion of human rights

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- ▶ strengthening the implementation of European human rights standards at regional and national level
- ▶ protecting national and ethnic minorities' rights
- ▶ promoting equality and human dignity
- ▶ promoting human rights education and democratic citizenship

### Theme II: Ensuring justice

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- ▶ strengthening the independence and efficiency of justice
- ▶ strengthening constitutional justice
- ▶ promoting penitentiary reforms (from a punitive to a rehabilitative approach)

### Theme III: Combating threats to the rule of law

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- ▶ fighting against corruption and fostering good governance/fighting against money-laundering
- ▶ criminal justice action on cyber crime

### Theme IV: Addressing challenges of the information society

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- ▶ improve freedom, independence, pluralism and diversity of media
- ▶ information society and Internet governance
- ▶ enhance the right to data protection

### Theme V: Promoting democratic governance

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- ▶ electoral assistance: reforming electoral legislation and practice
- ▶ strengthening institutional frameworks for local governance

■ The Secretary General and the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe define the priority areas for cooperation with member states and these are reflected in the country action plans.

■ The Council of Europe has a multi-institutional advantage and through its Parliamentary Assembly and Congress of Local and Regional Authorities it will enable the PCF to involve different institutions and stakeholders at national, regional and local levels in all Eastern Partnership countries.

■ All PCF actions will address cross-cutting issues – such as gender mainstreaming and the protection of minorities' rights – and will ensure the inclusive involvement of civil society in the implementation of the PCF.



## HOW DOES THE PCF WORK?

— The PCF actions, both country-specific and regional, were designed in close consultation with national stakeholders, in the framework of the Council of Europe's country-specific action plans. The action plans are prepared on the basis of findings and recommendations from Council of Europe monitoring bodies and are in line with national reform agendas.

— The PCF activities will provide extensive and substantial expertise on strengthening the capacity of Eastern Partnership countries' institutions to implement domestic reforms and to bring them closer to the Council of Europe standards in the fields of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. This will be done through a variety of activities: conferences, seminars, working groups, networking, analytical reports and training sessions led by Council of Europe staff and international experts.

— The actors involved are national stakeholders who play a decisive role in the implementation of reforms: parliaments, governmental bodies at all levels (ministries responsible for justice, finance, interior, health, education, labour and social protection, and public administration), public institutions in the relevant areas, such as anti-corruption and anti-money laundering, public prosecutors, law-enforcement agencies, penitentiary administrations, central and local electoral commissions, ombudspersons, the judicial community, judicial self-governing bodies, legal professionals, the media, local and regional authorities, non-governmental organisations, academia and the general public.

## Monitoring bodies

Council of Europe monitoring bodies consist of independent experts who monitor the implementation of Council of Europe conventions by member states and issue recommendations. These monitoring bodies include: the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO); the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ); the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT); the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA); the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL); the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM); the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI); the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO); it also includes the European Court of Human Rights.



## WHO COORDINATES THE PCF?

— A permanent coordination mechanism between the Council of Europe, the European Union, Council of Europe Field Offices, European Union Delegations and the PCF National Coordinators will be established to ensure inclusive and comprehensive coordination between the Council of Europe, the European Union, the national stakeholders and partners, as well as with other international organisations.

— This will ensure synergies with other existing and planned, country-specific and regional actions in the Eastern Partnership countries and will guarantee tangible results and the impact of the PCF for the final beneficiaries and the general public.

## ARE THE RESULTS SUSTAINABLE?

— National stakeholders' ownership of the reform process will be crucial to the PCF's result-oriented implementation and sustainability. PCF actions focus on the development and improvement of national legal frameworks, national institutional capacities, and on the enhancement of the professional skills and knowledge of both partners and national stakeholders. Sustainability will be achieved by enhancing the institutional capacity through the training of national staff.

— The PCF will contribute to building up the knowledge and capacity of national actors, so that they may promote the objectives among their peers within the country and the region, as well as beyond the implementation phase of the PCF.

## WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

- ▶ Eastern Partnership Programmatic Cooperation Framework website  
<http://eap-pcf-eu.coe.int>
- ▶ Council of Europe: Office of the Directorate General of Programmes  
[www.coe.int/en/web/programmes](http://www.coe.int/en/web/programmes)
- ▶ European Union Eastern Partnership website  
[www.eeas.europa.eu/eastern](http://www.eeas.europa.eu/eastern)
- ▶ Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/pages/CoE-EU-Eastern-Partnership-PCF](http://www.facebook.com/pages/CoE-EU-Eastern-Partnership-PCF)
- ▶ Twitter  
<https://twitter.com/CoeEapPCF>
- ▶ Contact  
[pcf@coe.int](mailto:pcf@coe.int)

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ოპორტუნისტების სხივით  
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არგ თარაფაშინი Partenariat Oriental

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

The European Union is a unique economic and political partnership between 28 democratic European countries. Its aims are peace, prosperity and freedom for its 500 million citizens – in a fairer, safer world. To make things happen, EU countries set up bodies to run the EU and adopt its legislation. The main ones are the European Parliament (representing the people of Europe), the Council of the European Union (representing national governments) and the European Commission (representing the common EU interest).

<http://europa.eu>

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